

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 8, 2002, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above amendments and consider the following remarks. A marked-up version of the changes is attached hereto. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe one embodiment of the invention, and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. New claims 7-21 have been added. As a result, claims 1 and 3-21 are still pending in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and accompanying remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rheinlander et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Rheinlander et al. fails to teach or suggest either layer of the component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Rheinlander et al. cannot support the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bondoc et al. or Grinshpun et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Neither reference teaches or suggests the layers of the component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither Bondoc et al. nor Grinshpun et al. can support the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Davis fails to teach or suggest either layer of the component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Davis cannot support the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Finley. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Finley fails to teach or suggest the layered component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Finley cannot support the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Prince et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Prince et al. fails to teach or suggest either layer of the component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Prince et al. cannot support the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Fulford. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Fulford fails to teach or suggest either layer of the component of claim 1. Claim 2 has been

canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Fulford cannot support the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

New Claims 7-21

New claims 7-21 have been added to describe various embodiments of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has distinguished claims 1 and 3-21 over the cited references. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/8/02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (amended) A component comprising:

a synthetic wood layer comprising:

cellulosic filler in an amount of about 20% to about 70% by weight; and

polyvinyl chloride material in an amount of about 20% to about 70% by weight, said polyvinyl chloride material comprising:

polyvinyl chloride resin;

stabilizer in an amount of about 1 to about 10 parts per 100 parts of

said polyvinyl chloride resin;

lubricant in an amount of about 2 to about 12 parts per 100 parts of

said polyvinyl chloride resin; and

process aid in an amount of about 0.5 to about 8 parts per 100

parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin; and

a foamed polymer layer secured to said synthetic wood layer, ~~wherein said foamed polymer layer is comprised of a polymer selected from the group consisting of high density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, low density polyethylene, chlorinated polyvinyl chloride, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, ethyl vinyl acetate, and polystyrene comprising:~~

polyvinyl chloride resin;

stabilizer in an amount of about 1.5 to about 7 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;

lubricant in an amount of about 3 to about 10 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;

process aid in an amount of about 6 to about 12 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin; and

blowing agent in an amount of about 0.3 to about 1 part per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

Please add the following new claims:

7. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said synthetic wood layer comprises said cellulosic filler in an amount of about 50% to about 60% by weight.
8. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said synthetic wood layer comprises said polyvinyl chloride material in an amount of about 25% to about 60% by weight.
9. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said polyvinyl chloride material comprises:
 - said stabilizer in an amount of about 2 to about 8 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;
 - said lubricant in an amount of about 4 to about 10 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin; and
 - said process aid in an amount of about 2 to about 6 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

10. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said polyvinyl chloride material further comprises inorganic filler in an amount up to about 10 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

11. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said foamed polymer layer comprises:

said stabilizer in an amount of about 2 to about 4 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;

said lubricant in an amount of about 4 to about 6 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;

said process aid in an amount of about 8 to about 11 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin; and

said blowing agent in an amount of about 0.5 to about 0.8 part per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

12. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said foamed polymer layer further comprises inorganic filler in an amount of about 6 to about 11 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

13. (new) The component of claim 1 wherein said foamed polymer layer further comprises cellulosic filler in an amount of about 20 to about 55 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

14. (new) A component comprising:

a synthetic wood layer comprising:

cellulosic filler in an amount of about 30% to about 70% by weight; and

polypropylene material in an amount of about 30% to about 70% by weight, said polypropylene material comprising:

polypropylene resin; and

lubricant in an amount of about 10 to about 20 parts per 100 parts

of said polypropylene resin; and

a foamed polypropylene layer secured to said synthetic wood layer.

15. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein said synthetic wood layer is chemically bonded to said foamed polypropylene layer.

16. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein said synthetic wood layer is secured to said foamed polypropylene layer by an adhesive.

17. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein said synthetic wood layer is secured to said foamed polypropylene layer by a mechanical fastening device.

18. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein the component is of a type selected from the group consisting of fence components, furniture components, cabinet components, storage device components, lawn edging components, flower box components, floor components, roof components, wall covering components, building siding components, basement floor components, basement wall covering components, decorative house molding components, crown molding components, chair rail components, picture frame components, porch deck components, deck railing components, window molding components, window components, door components, and door moldings.

19. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein:

said synthetic wood layer comprises said cellulosic filler in an amount of about 50% to about 60% by weight; and

said synthetic wood layer comprises said polypropylene material in an amount of about 40% to about 50% by weight.

20. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein said polypropylene material comprises said lubricant in an amount of about 14 to about 19 parts per 100 parts of said polypropylene resin.

21. (new) The component of claim 14 wherein said polypropylene material further comprises inorganic filler in an amount up to about 70 parts per 100 parts of said polypropylene resin.